

# New Smart Energy Communities: How it Works and Where to Get Started



**Maryland Energy**  
ADMINISTRATION  
*Powering Maryland's Future*

**How To Apply:** To be designated as a Smart Energy Community, applicants must follow a sequence of steps.

**1. Review the policy guidance documents (online) for each of the required policies to ensure that you fully understand what the program involves.**

## **2. Application (Late 2014)**

Local governments apply to be designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community and to receive grant funding. The next application period is anticipated to be at the end of 2014, but communities interested in learning more about the program, gaining early technical assistance, or simply understanding the application process are encouraged to contact the individuals listed below. The application involves getting sign-off from the city/county council that they intend to pursue the policies within the allotted amount of time.

### **For Additional Information**

Go to:

<http://energy.maryland.gov/Govt/smartenergycommunities/>

Or contact Devan Willemssen from MEA [devan.willemssen@maryland.gov](mailto:devan.willemssen@maryland.gov) or Call at 410-260-7539

Or contact Sean Williamson at the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center at [Srw46@umd.edu](mailto:Srw46@umd.edu) or Call at 301-405-8259

## **3. MEA Application Review (Early 2015)**

MEA will evaluate applications based on multiple criteria including the local government's capacity to pass policies within the given timeframe, ability to commit staff to the initiative, application completeness, among other factors. *If a local government is accepted into the program, they become eligible for grant funding for specific energy-related projects.*

## **4. Implementation Agreements (Early 2015)**

Once applications are approved, local governments will sign implementation agreements with MEA. The agreement will state that the local government will pass two of the three policies by October 31, 2015, and upon doing so will be eligible for a set amount of funding for an energy efficiency, renewable energy and/or transportation project, to be approved by MEA.

## **5. Policies Adopted (October 31, 2015)**

Local governments must adopt the two policies and create the relevant baselines and plans by October 31, 2015. If communities do not pass the policies by this date, they are not eligible for project funding in the first round, though they may be eligible in future years. MEA and MEA's technical support provider, the University of Maryland's Environmental Finance Center, are available to help communities meet the program deliverables.

## **6. Funding for Energy-Related Project (To be spent by June 2016)**

Once a local government passes the policies, they become designated as a Maryland Smart Energy Community and can access the project funding. All projects must be related to energy efficiency, renewable energy, and/or transportation and must be approved by MEA. A separate project proposal form will be available to local governments upon being accepted into the program. Projects are subject to MEA's terms and conditions. Projects must be complete and invoiced by June 2016.